

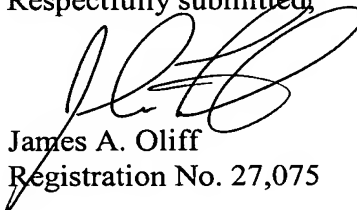
REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended to insert continuity information regarding the parent application and minor revisions. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JWF/lbg

Date: October 27, 2003

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